

Hafa Adai!

New courthouse hosts two naturalization ceremonies. **PAGE 3**
CHCC, PSS host school-bases Immunization Outreach. **PAGE 6**

75¢

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'Zero flights make touchback provision nearly impossible'

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas Business Alliance Corp. believes that the "touchback" provision in the Northern Marianas Islands U.S. Workforce Act of 2018—which would require foreign workers to 'touch back' (or temporarily return) to their country of origin—would

severely hurt CNMI businesses, even more so with the current recession as a result of COVID-19.

In an interview with NMBAC chair Alex Sablan, he said most businesses' biggest concern with the touchback provision is the logistics

See ZERO on Page 4



The two gas companies in the CNMI, Mobil and Shell, have again increased their fuel price by 10 cents, less than two months after the last gas price increase on June 14.

KRIZEL TUAZON

Fuel prices near pre-COVID days

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The upward trend in fuel prices continues after over a monthlong standstill, with

DOF, OAG in talks about deferring new license fees

By IVA MAURIN
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REPORTER

With poker arcades and other gaming establishments remaining closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, operators of these businesses are now dismayed after re-

ceiving a Department of Finance notice reminding them that they are due to pay their business licenses and permit fees for the machines.

At the media briefing yesterday, Finance Secretary David Atalig said the department

See DOF on Page 4

Fuel prices near pre-COVID days

fuel prices nearing pre-COVID-19 days.

Last Monday, Mobil Oil Mariana Islands Inc. took the lead again in the fifth gas price hike this year, raising the price

on their Extra and Supreme fuel. Their Extra fuel is now 5-cents away from pre-pandemic prices.

Gas prices went up 10

See FUEL on Page 4



INSIDE



BUSINESS

Kensington Hotel brings the hotel dining experience to another level during the pandemic.

PAGE 12



ASIA

Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte warned would-be criminals that "bodies will pile up."

PAGE 13



LIFE & STYLE

Sophie Turner and Joe Jonas have had their first child but gave no further details.

PAGE 15



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AT A GLANCE

As of 6pm, July 28, 2020

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	346	3	349
Recovered	244	47	291
Active	50	3	53
Deaths	6*	0	6*
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested			20,918

*Total includes a sailor from the USS Theodore Roosevelt.

**Total count includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Health Care Corp.

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

Local

Two sex offenders plead guilty, get prison terms

Two sex offenders, including one caught on surveillance camera stealing a woman's underwear from a clothesline, pleaded guilty yesterday in the Superior Court.

Renato Gaviola, 54, pleaded guilty to stalking in the second degree and to two counts of disturbing the peace. In a

separate proceeding, David Bamba, 62, pleaded guilty to violation of the sex offender registry and to two counts of assault and battery (domestic violence).

Presiding Judge Roberto C. Naraja sentenced Gaviola to two years imprisonment, all suspended except for 60 days,

and two years of probation.

Gaviola was ordered to perform 200 hours of community service, to have no contact with the victim and stay away from her home or her car, and to drink no alcohol.

Naraja sentenced Bamba to five years imprisonment, all suspended except for one

year, and five years of probation upon release with 300 hours of community service, no contact with the victim or any child pursuant to the sex offender registry guidelines, and to drink no alcohol.

Chief Prosecutor John Bradley said Gaviola admitted to taking undergarments off of a clothesline in front of a home, masturbating on them, and then returning them on several

occasions between December 2019 and January 2020.



Naraja

children—a violation of the sex offender registry rules. Bradley said Bamba also pleaded guilty to assault and battery—one for slapping a 13-year-old boy and the other for slapping his girlfriend last

January on Tinian.

Bamba was convicted in 1986 of sexually abusing a 14-year-old girl. He was sentenced to 22 years in prison. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*



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According to Labor Secretary Vicky Benavente, 10 of the department's personnel will provide assistance at the center. "Many of the questions we have today and the past few days is: where is my PUA application, what is the status, and so this is a good time to come into the building, see if there

are any missing documents.

"We will have our laptop set up and see exactly where's your application. Is it being reviewed? Is it being adjudicated? Has it been processed for benefits? All of those questions can be answered [today] so bring copies of the documents that were submitted," she added.

For those who have already submitted their documents online and are looking to go to the outreach today, Benavente advises them to bring hard copies of documents or any kind of proof of the documents that were submitted.

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"The application is such a tedious document [that] many of our applicants do not understand the questions, and perhaps answered them incorrectly, which made an application become denied or incomplete, and so it takes an average of 30, 40 minutes per person," she said.

Labor is working on about 200 PUA applications daily, which they seek to increase in the next few days. To date, close to \$5 million worth of PUA has been issued, with Finance Secretary David Atalig hoping that another \$5 million will be processed, approved, or paid within the week. *(Iva Maurin)*

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Pacific Rim wants \$688K in IPI casino cage seized

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_deletorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A former contractor of Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC has again asked the federal court to issue a writ of execution, this time to seize \$46,201 in U.S. currency and \$642,207 in foreign currency that

were identified during their inspection of IPI's casino cage.

Pacific Rim Land Development LLC, through counsel Colin M. Thompson, asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to issue a writ of execution to have the U.S. Marshal seize the money in the casino cage at the Imperial Pacific Resort & Casino

in Garapan for Pacific Rim.

Thompson said they inspected IPI's casino cage last Monday and saw \$46,201 in U.S. currency and \$642,207 in foreign currency—59,700 in Renminbi, 508,100 in Hong Kong dollars, 63,065,000 in Japanese yen, and 44,910,000 in Korean won.

Last July 15, District Court Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona granted Pacific Rim's motion to release to Pacific Rim \$1,383,869 in IPI funds that were seized through writs of execution. Thompson said the court judgment that awarded Pacific Rim \$5.65 million, remains unsatisfied in the amount of \$5,525,463.

Last May 26, Manglona amended the judgment to incorporate pre-judgment interest and attorneys' fees. The clerk then entered an amended judgment in the amount of \$6.9 million plus post-judgment interest.

IPI general counsel Michael Dotts earlier stated that IPI has satisfied about \$1.3 million of the judgment following the court's first and second writs of execution, but the \$5.9 million has not been satisfied in full.

Muña: NMI has access if vaccine succeeds

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

If the COVID-19 vaccine that American drugmaker Pfizer and German biotech company BioNTech SE are developing proves safe and effective, the CNMI won't be left in the cold, according to Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. chief executive officer Esther Muña.

At the same time, she cautioned that it requires a lot more time to be sure that the vaccine works. For

now, CHCC is learning more from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"It does require a lot more time to be sure. ... It is a process that has to go through. So while there may be a breakthrough [if] this works and people have been tested to see if the vaccine works, it does require more time," said Muña in a radio briefing last July 24.

She added that the vaccine could be available later this year or early next year and that the U.S. govern-

ment has already allocated \$1.95 billion to pay for 100 million doses of the experimental vaccine.

As for the CNMI's testing capabilities, Warren Villagomez, who chairs the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, says that they still have 40,000-plus test kits. Assuming that the CNMI received 60,000 test kits in all and with the CHCC's dashboard showing a total of 12,745 test that have been used, this would mean that there is a total of 47,255 test kits that are still available.

Saipan Tribune learned that Pfizer has become the second drugmaker to announce that it has begun Phase 3 testing of a vaccine that will help prevent the spread of COVID-19. Pfizer, along with BioNTech, just announced the beginning of human trials, which involves 30,000 patients in 39 U.S. states.

"Many steps have been taken to-

ward this important milestone, and we would like to thank all those involved for their extraordinary commitment," said Ugur Sahin, CEO of BioNTech, according to media reports.

Additionally, about 25 COVID-19 vaccines around the world are in the clinical testing phase, according to the World Health Organization.

Hawaii battles complacency after another hurricane near-miss

HONOLULU (AP)—Hurricane Douglas joined a long list of hurricanes that have come near the Hawaiian Islands but didn't cause major damage.

Kauai Mayor Derek Kawakami said such experiences unfortunately help people become complacent and think disaster will never strike them.

"What we're really concerned about is Mother Nature—there's no way you can control her. And the one time that she does decide to not send a message but really impact

our island, it's going to be when certain people have taken it lightly," Kawakami said.

Douglas passed about 45 miles (72 kilometers) north of Maui and possibly even closer to Oahu as a Category 1 hurricane on Sunday.

Despite earlier warnings that Douglas could pass directly over the islands, surfers hit the waves and selfie-takers flocked to the shoreline on Oahu.

Kawakami said Kauai's history of getting hit by major hurricanes and

floods have left a strong impression on the island's residents who do take weather threats seriously.

"Even people that are relatively newcomers, in a sense will hear the local knowledge, will see the people getting prepared. And they'll just follow suit," Kawakami said.

In 1992, Hurricane Iniki damaged or destroyed 41 percent of the island's homes. Just two years ago, heavy rains triggered landslides that cut off entire communities on Kauai's north shore for months.

come into the islands, that it won't be the same way as our tourists openly enjoyed the Marianas before COVID-19," he added.

Torres says that they will need to balance the opportunity to bring in the first international flights, as well as monitor where the CNMI is with COVID-19 on the islands as well as the region.

Since the CNMI is considered a low-risk area, Torres said he is looking at every option to open up the borders, particularly because tourism makes up most of the CNMI's revenue.

"It's so critical that, when we approach countries, like Korea for example...that we acknowledge that they've also done a great job and flattened their curve" and what the CNMI is doing to reciprocate that, he said. Torres said that it's a cycle "where we need one to provide for the other," that "we need the hospital, the hospital needs revenue, we need

people to work, we need revenue, we need our tourists, so we're balancing that out."

Torres added that he will be working alongside CHCC, Muña, and the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force to help find a balance when the CNMI moves forward in bringing in tourists.

According to Muña, the flights that are coming in are returning residents who are returning from vacation or have work here. "There's a lot of people that are coming in specifically for work. I mean, there's a lot of projects happening here in the CNMI," said Muña. "We have individuals that have come in to take a break here in the CNMI; they consider the CNMI as a safe zone, so they are here, but we hold them to do the same restrictions."

Muna added that an Asiana Airlines flight that came in yesterday had about 110 passengers, which is not a full flight.

and it's expected that gas will too" he said.

Another motorist from Sadog Tasi said that she didn't even notice gas prices changing because of everything that's been going on. "I think there are more issues to worry about, like thousands have yet to receive their Pandemic Unemployment Assistance. I guess gas prices going up isn't really noticeable amidst all of this," she said.

CNMI before the government shutdown as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic was at \$3.83.

A 27-year-old motorist from Capital Hill described the gas price hike as "nothing new anymore" since the economy is starting to get back on its feet.

"Gas has always been pricey in the Marianas, so it's nothing new. Of course it went down right when the government shut down but I think we're trying to get back to normal

ment recently sent out a letter to all with expiring business licenses—and not just gaming companies—to remind them of their responsibilities to pay. He said his team at the Division of Revenue and Taxation, and Business License, sent out the reminders to all businesses with expiring licenses.

"We understand that the poker annual fees are due. We are sending out reminders that they are due," he said. "Unfortunately, the pandemic and the [COVID-19 Task Force] directives are having them shut down, but that still does not relieve them of paying any of their fees or their business license so we sent out reminders to

ZERO

From Page 1

of having to send workers home when there are no flights due to COVID-19. Businesses are required to cover the cost to send foreign workers home and then return to the CNMI.

Additionally, although it isn't impossible to send foreign workers home, charter flights are extremely costly, Sablan said, and would hurt businesses even more since there is no money coming into the islands due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"There are charters being discussed but it's going to be costly and, at this time, this is going to really hurt the businesses. That's the downside. We have to send a lot of people home at a time when the economy isn't making any money," he said.

Right now, there are nearly zero international flights at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, with only United Airlines flying between Saipan and Guam. Other than United, the only other airline using the airport is Star Marianas Air, which mainly provides interisland travel.

Logistically, Sablan said, it might be nearly impossible to send workers off-island at this time since the CNMI has thousands of foreign workers from various countries. These workers are also referred to as CW-1 holders, as they fall under the CNMI-Only Transitional Worker program.

"Logistically, it's hard if we have to send back workers and now that is very difficult because we have no flights. We have workers from the Philippines, China, all over and that's going to be impossible right now. That's one of the main concerns of this touchback," he said.

With U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services hosting a webinar on the U.S. Workforce Act of 2018 on July 29, the CNMI can expect clearer answers soon.

"We emailed our questions to USCIS before the webinar so hopefully we can get some answers there because I know everybody, majority of the businesses, are waiting on what's going to happen now," he said.

The touchback provision of the U.S. Workforce Act of 2018 requires a foreign worker to return to his or her home country for 30 days and will be processed again as a new CW-1 employee. After another three years in the CNMI, they have to "touch back" again.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, an Office of Insular Affairs report determined that less than 3,000 CNMI-Only Transitional workers qualify as "legacy" or "long-term" workers and are exempt from the newly implemented touchback provision.

Sablan said that the last OIA report estimates somewhere below 3,000 individuals who qualify as a "legacy" or "long-term" visa holder in the Commonwealth.

NEW

From Page 1

gust. Beside risk zones, the criteria will include positivity and hospitalization rates. She declined to elaborate, saying more details about the new protocols will be released later.

"Let's say you're coming in from Florida and you're traveling to Korea. Even though Korea may be a low-risk area, the fact that you came all the way from Florida [where COVID-19 cases are spiking], those are the things that we need to make the decision to say, 'No, that would be considered a high-risk [area],' said Muña.

In the same radio briefing, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said that the CNMI community will also understand that "...it's going to be a little different.

"I think that our tourists also know that, especially being the first to

FUEL

From Page 1

cents from \$3.68 for a gallon of Extra fuel to \$3.78 per gallon, while the Supreme fuel went from \$4.13 per gallon to \$4.23. Mobil's diesel went up to \$4.06 per gallon.

Shell Marianas followed suit last Monday night, also raising their prices by 10 cents.

The lowest price of fuel in the

OVA chief disappointed by 'lack of support' for veterans

By JUSTINE NAUTA
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Of the seven lawmakers that make up the House Committee on Federal and Foreign Af-

MVA productions aim for top-of-the-mind awareness of the CNMI

To maintain awareness of the Marianas during the worldwide lull in leisure travel due to COVID-19, the Marianas Visitors Authority has launched a new series of video and photo productions for distribution on its social media platforms.

The first in the series, "Dance Your Way Through the Marianas," premiered on July 17 on the MVA's English Facebook and Instagram and will also be shared on its platforms in other markets. The five-minute video illustrates a glimpse of the Marianas' tourism attractions and amenities

and provide viewers a virtual experience of the islands.

"To counter the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, more than ever the Marianas as a tourist destination needs to keep a relevant online presence to attract potential travelers and stand out among other beach destinations," said MVA managing director Priscilla M. Iakopo. "This video series will help keep the Marianas top-of-the-mind for potential visitors, which is important as it is more cost-efficient to main-

fairs, only a few showed up for a meeting last week with the Office of Veterans Affairs and OVA executive officer Stanley T. Iakopo sees this as the committee's disappointing lack of

support for veterans and their families.

According to Iakopo, he asked to meet with committee members top talk about how to protect the CNMI Veterans Cemetery from being desecrated by stray cows that defecate on the resting place of veterans and their families.

"I need their support. I need the committee, not just one person or two," said Iakopo.

Although a temporary fence already surrounds the Veterans Cemetery in Marpi, Iakopo said the problem has not been resolved as the cows are still

there and are still straying into the cemetery, this time going through the front gate.

"So I expressed my disappointment with the committee, because I need them to help the veterans and help the families, help our office, in general to assist us in talking to the [cattle] grazers," he said in an interview.

The bottom line, Iakopo said, is that this is about the cemetery, about a place where loved one were laid to rest, a respected and protected area.

Committee chair Rep.

Luis John Castro (R-Saipan) agrees with Iakopo for the need to have the Veterans Cemetery respected as hallowed ground. "I want to make sure that our veterans' final resting place is honored appropriately. The grazers can assist by being more responsible in raising their livestock," said Castro.

He commended Iakopo for taking the initial steps in securing the cemetery by installing the temporary fence that's meant to prevent cows from entering the cemetery.

He pointed out that Iakopo

is merely doing his job but "is getting into issues with some ranchers, so he asked us to assist in regards to that."

"Right now, it is still an ongoing discussion and the committee plans to reach out to the Department of Public Lands as well as the ranchers who have grazing property in Marpi," Castro said, adding that enforcement of DPL rules is the issue.

Castro added that it's a "touchy issue" because it's not "just any cemetery" but a veterans cemetery and many go there to pay respects to their loved ones who have served. He said the FFA will invite DPL to its next meeting.

Q2 employer compliance reports due

The CNMI Department of Labor would like to remind all employers that the 2nd quarter 2020 employer compliance reports are due on July 31, 2020.

Employers subject to employment reporting requirements must complete and submit a Total Workforce Listing and Workforce Plan on or before the deadline this Friday. Of particular interest is the new reporting requirement for employers with multiple island job sites as described below.

Special instructions for Rota and Tinian employers

A CNMI employer with multiple island job sites must submit a separate report for each island. For example, if an organization employs workers for job sites in Saipan and Tinian, then the employer must file two separate quarterly compliance reports (one for Saipan and another for Tinian).

■ Rota employers must email employment reports to documents@marianaslabor.net and dolrota@gmail.com or delivered to the DOL Rota Field Office at Antonio

C. Atalig Memorial Building, Tatchachong Village.

■ Tinian employers must email employment reports to documents@marianaslabor.net and tinianlabordepartment@gmail.com or delivered to the DOL Tinian Field Office at Edu's Plaza, 1st Floor, San Jose Village.

In light of the current situation, and to minimize public contact with staff members, employers are encouraged to submit their reports by email.

Employers unable to submit online may file a report with the DOL's Administrative Services office on Capital Hill, Building 1356. Failure or refusal to comply is cause for the DOL to issue a notice of violation to the employer, which may result in fines and other sanctions following a due process hearing in the Administrative Hearing Office.

For additional information or to request assistance in completing the reports, employers may contact DOL at (670) 664-3196. The CNMI DOL is open Monday to Friday between 7:30am and 4:30pm, except on federal and Commonwealth holidays. (PR)

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New schedule for COVID-19 mass testing

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. have updated the schedule for the CNMI Community-Based COVID-19 Testing Initiative:

■ The task force optimized the Office of the Governor's website to reflect the current testing schedule and locations as well as available slots. This information will be updated routinely.

■ Specifically, at Kanoa Resort Saipan, there are workstations available at Station 3 for community members who have not registered. Please note that even though you register at Station 3, your testing date will be based on the next available slot.

■ For businesses with 50 or more employees and for all government agencies, call 287-0046/287-1089/287-0489 for information on group registrations.

■ People who were previously tested through the Community-Based COVID-19 Testing Initiative are not able to register for testing at this time.

ON THE NET

- Register: www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19/testing
- See results: www.cnmi-covidresults.com

register for testing at this time.

Steps for CNMI Community-Based COVID-19 Testing Initiative:

1. People interested in being tested for COVID-19, can register online or by phone.

■ The registration portal for all islands will be using the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force site at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19/testing. Or call 287-0046 / 287-1089 / 287-0489

■ People who were previously tested through the Community-Based COVID-19 Testing Initiative are not able to register for testing at this time.

2. Write down your Confirmation ID.

■ Your Confirmation ID will be provided to you after you register. TIP: Your confirmation ID is unique to you. It cannot be shared or transferred.

■ Please use an email address that you have access to when you register online.

Your Confirmation ID will be sent to your email. TIP: Check your spam/junk folder

❖ If you want to register over the phone, your Confirmation ID will be given to you by a CHCC COVID-19 Info Line representative.

3. Prepare for your appointment.

■ Bring your Confirmation ID provided to you after registration. Your Confirmation ID is required at your appointment.

■ Wear a face covering throughout the appointment

4. Visit your testing site.

5. Self-quarantine while you wait for your results.

6. Wait at least 72 hours from the specimen collection appointment for your results.

■ Register at www.cnmi-covidresults.com

❖ Sign in and search for your result using your confirmation ID

❖ Save or print a hard copy of your results immediately. Results will only be available on this site for two weeks.

Not mandatory

Community testing for COVID-19 is not mandatory. It

Island	Date	Time	Location	Drive-Thru/Walk-up
Saipan	• 7/28/2020 • 7/31/2020 • 8/1/2020	• 1:00PM-3:00PM • 8:30AM-11:00AM • 1:00PM-3:00PM	• Kanoa Resort Saipan • Northern Marianas College • Kanoa Resort Saipan	Both
Tinian	• 7/29/2020	• 9:00AM-11AM and 1:00PM-3:00PM	• Tinian Health Center Conference Room	Walk-up
Rota	• 7/29/2020 • 7/30/2020	• 1:00PM-4:00PM • 1:00PM-4:00PM	• Rota Health Center • Rota Health Center	Walk-up

is another surveillance tool to help the task force and CHCC detect and contain the SARS-CoV2 virus, the virus that causes COVID-19. Community testing may also help us understand how widespread the virus is in the community.

At this time, community testing for COVID-19 involves inserting a long swab (like a Q-tip) into the cavity between the nose and mouth. This might be more uncomfortable for some people. Getting tested for COVID-19 does not improve response to the illness, nor does it reduce the risk of contracting or transmitting the disease.

Our goal is to provide results as quickly as possible within a reasonable time-frame. People who are tested and have a negative result are still vulnerable to the virus.

Community testing will help us to identify people who may be infected with the virus, especially those who may be pre-symptomatic or asymptomatic, so we can direct these people to the appropriate care, contain the virus, and prevent its spread using tools such as quarantine, isolation, and contact tracing.

Should you test positive for SARS-CoV2, the virus which causes COVID-19, a CNMI health representative will meet with you to help you understand your infection risk.

You'll be ordered to isolate at the designated isolation site to protect others around you. You will be connected to affordable medical treatment if needed, regardless of income or immigration status.

Anyone you have been in close contact with can also access help if you've been exposed to the virus. Your information and the information of your close contacts will not be shared.

As a reminder, it is essential for everyone in the community to continue to practice good hand-hygiene, wear a face-covering, social distancing, and limit time spent in public places as much as possible. (PR)

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB20-BECQ-092

SUBMISSION DATE: AUGUST 20, 2020 TIME: 09:00 A.M.

"OFFICE SPACE RENTAL FOR THE BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND COASTAL QUALITY – TINIAN BRANCH"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCIION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

MUST USE A FACE MASK BEFORE ENTERING THE OFFICE

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAIC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ELI D. CABRERA
ADMINISTRATOR OF BECQ

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB20-GOV/PA-095

SUBMISSION DATE: AUGUST 20, 2020 TIME: 10:30 A.M.

"LEASE OF A MULTI-FUNCTION DIGITAL COLOR COPIER, NETWORK, PRINTER, SCANNER (W/ COLOR SENDING), AND I-FAX FOR THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR – PUBLIC ASSISTANCE OFFICE"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCIION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

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/S/ VIRGINIA C. VILLAGOMEZ
GOVERNOR'S AUTHORIZED REP.

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC AUDITOR
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP20-OPA-01

SUBMISSION DATE: August 6, 2020 TIME: 4:00 P.M.

"SINGLE AUDIT OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2020 and 2021"

THE AUDIT GUIDELINES AND SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE, LOCATED AT 1236 YAP DRIVE, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS (MONDAY – THURSDAY, 7:30 AM – 4:30 PM, CLOSED ON FRIDAYS AND HOLIDAYS).

INQUIRIES MAY BE DIRECTED TO MR. DAVID BLAKE, OPA AUDIT MANAGER, AT TELEPHONE NUMBERS (670) 322-6481/2 OR BY FACSIMILE TO (670) 322-7812.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI OPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAIC § 130-30-725 AND § 130-30-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES AND KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC AUDITOR (OPA) RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL PROPOSALS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE OPA. ALL PROPOSALS RECEIVED SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE OPA AND WILL NOT BE RETURNED TO THE PROPOSERS.

/s/ MICHAEL PAI, CPA
PUBLIC AUDITOR

/s/ MICHELLE A. CAMACHO
PROCUREMENT OFFICER

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. Box 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500 Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 02-2020

Opening date: July 22, 2020 **Closing date: August 11, 2020**

Positions: (1) Radio Operator/Weather Observer (Rota)

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the **CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or CPA Administration Office Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport**. Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, 10-year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d) Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents to the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) or at the Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport is no later than **5:00 P.M. on Tuesday, August 11, 2020**.

Detailed information on qualifications and position descriptions for the above positions shall be picked up along with the application form from Monday-Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., except on holidays, at the CPA Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Terminal or CPA Admin. Office at the Tinian International Airport or at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport. For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at lorna.tenorio@cpa.gov.mp or by phone at (670)237-6500.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP NO.: RFP20-BECQ/DCRM-096

SUBMISSION DATE: AUGUST 20, 2020 TIME: 11:00 A.M.

"DEVELOPMENT OF BETTER BUILDING GUIDEBOOK TO ADDRESS COASTAL HAZARDS FOR THE BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL COASTAL QUALITY, DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCIION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

ALL QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP **MUST** BE SUBMITTED VIA-EMAIL TO DCRM-PLANNING BY EMAIL AT planning@dcrm.gov.mp, **NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS AUGUST 07, 2020**. RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS SHALL BE SHARED WITH ALL PERSPECTIVE PROPOSERS. ALL QUESTIONS SUBMITTED AFTER THE DEADLINE WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAIC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ELI D. CABRERA
ADMINISTRATOR, BECQ

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP NO.: RFP20-DOF/EDP-097

SUBMISSION DATE: SEPTEMBER 01, 2020 TIME: 09:30 A.M.

"HYPER CONVERGED INFRASTRUCTURE SYSTEM FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE, OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCIION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

MUST USE A FACE MASK BEFORE ENTERING THE OFFICE

ALL QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP **MUST** BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING TO THE DIVISION OF ELECTRONIC DATA PROCESSING, MR. JOSEPH TORRES, AT rfp@dof.gov.mp **NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS, AUGUST 17, 2020 ChST**. ALL QUESTIONS & ANSWERS WILL BE SHARED WITH ALL PROPOSERS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAIC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

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/S/ DAVID DLG. ATALIG
SECRETARY OF FINANCE

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

Opinion

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EDITORIAL

Time to heed the John Lewis example

By **JAY AMBROSE**

Tribune News Service



Jay Ambrose is an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service. Readers may email him at speaktojay@aol.com.

John Lewis, at the age of 80, has died, and one result is remembrances of his life, his courage, his Christian faith, his sacrifices and his dedication to nonviolence as one of the foremost civil rights leaders of the 20th and 21st centuries. Peace and love resided in his heart, it is said, and the Black Lives Matter protestors should listen, should forsake arson, vandalism, theft, injuring others, spreading ruin and defeating their cause.

The group's adherents should instead become John Lewis.

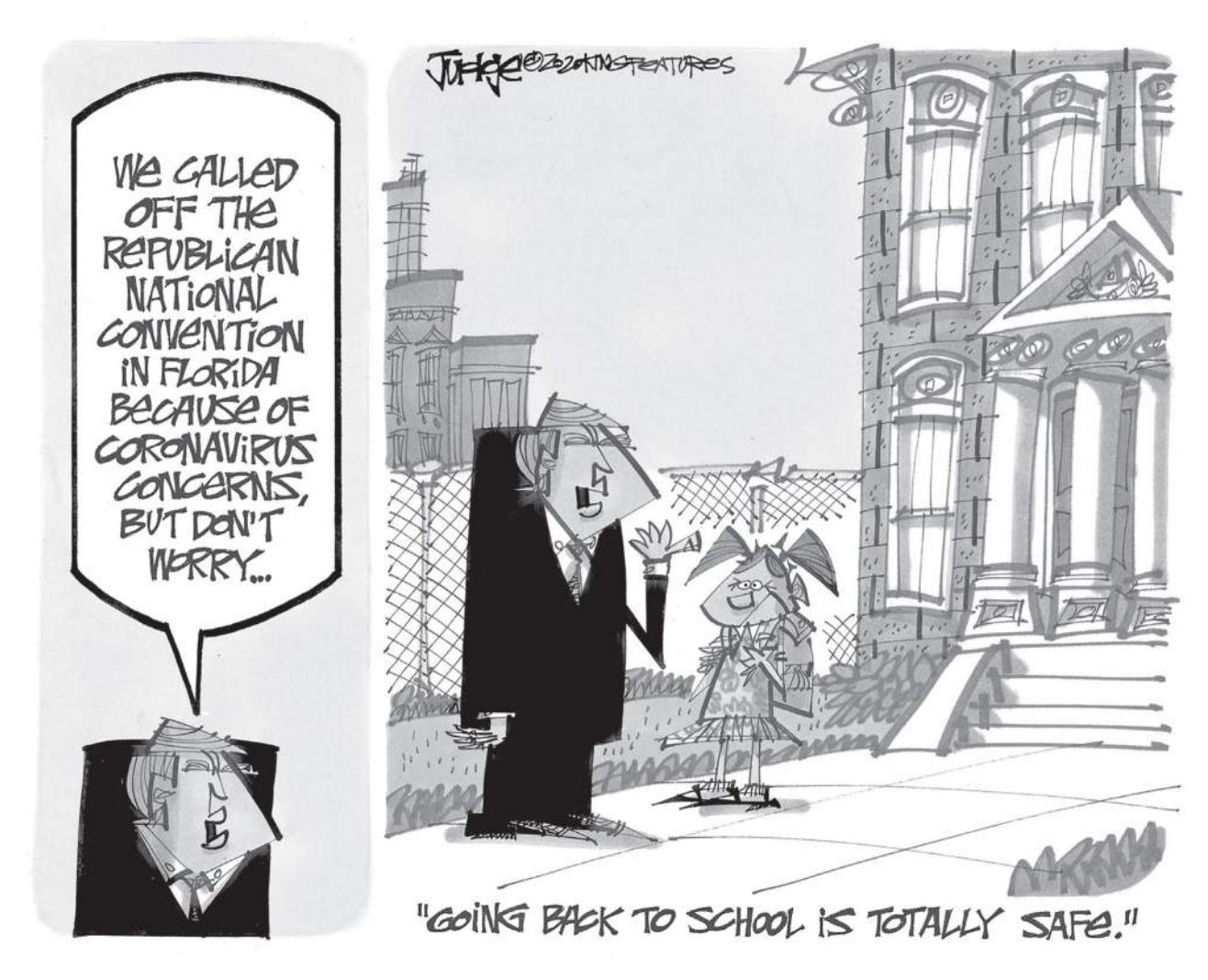
Lewis lived through times when the abuse and oppression of Black Americans was much harsher, crueler and painful than today, times when none could even dream of having a Black president, for instance. Especially in the South, Black people could not vote, ride on a bus with whites, eat in regular restaurants, stay in most hotels, go to public schools with whites or get into white colleges. Segregation ruled, and there were physical threats to deal with.

Even as a very young man who first wanted to be a minister, Lewis became a leader of a civil rights group and befriended Martin Luther King Jr., protested and demonstrated and was time and again beaten up. He had his skull fractured. He had his face bloodied. He took risks that could have gotten him killed. He was arrested 45 times.

But when he learned of the rise of the Black power movement and its acceptance of violence, he said no, no, no, that is not right. Jon Meacham, a superb journalist and author who has written a biography of him, says he was deeply of the faith, that he was led by the Gospels. He believed meekness would inherit the earth, and no, he was not always meek, but love was Lewis's foremost strategy: kindness, calmness, joy, humility, patience and putting the good of others first in everything he did. Guess what? On issue after issue after issue, he and others like him won, getting major, liberating legislation enacted into law.

Perfection hardly arrived, of course, and he himself was scarcely perfect, such being a deprivation of the human condition. But he also served for 17 terms in the House of Representatives, he fought for the right as he saw it and still helped make things happen. What we need now is more like him at a time when it looked as if a grand new moment was upon us, a time when racism might receive a cleansing like never before. The nation saw the excruciating killing of George Floyd and so very, very many were emotionally wounded, but within days we had protesters setting fire to police stations, to a block-long apartment complex under

See TIME on Next Page



The Border Patrol's brute power in Portland is the norm at the border

The recent images out of Portland—camouflaged federal agents pulling people into unmarked vans, firing off tear gas and flash grenades, and beating protesters with batons—have shocked the nation. Many people would like to believe that such violence by agents of the state are what one might witness in Pinochet's Chile, but the truth is that the scenes from Portland are all too American.

Many of the agents in Portland are members of Border Patrol Tactical Unit (BORTAC), a part of U.S. Customs and Border Protection. Since 9/11, CBP has ballooned to more than 60,000 personnel, making it the largest law enforcement agency in the federal government. In recent years, BORTAC units have even been sent to Iraq and Afghanistan as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

What's happening in Oregon reflects the long history of unprecedented police powers granted to federal border agents over what has become a far more expansive border zone than most Americans realize. The Trump administration's deployment of BORTAC units to suppress protesters in Portland should compel Congress to rein in the power of these militarized forces, which we have tolerated for far too long.

The original Border Patrol, the precursor of the CBP, was established in the 1920s. For many of its early years, it operated as a law unto itself, known for racial profiling and brutality. From the beginning, its agents fell prey to mission creep. Rather than confining themselves to the national boundaries in policing immigration and smuggling, they often pushed their patrols to strategic points many miles into the interior.

After World War II, Congress codified the broad powers that the agency had assumed for itself. It passed a law in 1946 giving Border Patrol agents authority to arrest undocumented immigrants and to search vehicles “within a reasonable distance from any external boundary of the United States,” without the warrants that would usually be required by the 4th Amendment to protect against unreasonable search and seizure.

In 1953, the Justice Department unilaterally decided that this “reasonable distance” extended 100 miles into the interior from the international land borders with Mexico and Canada, as well as from the U.S.’ maritime borders. The repercussions of this decision have turned out to be profound.

Today, nearly two-thirds of Americans—some 200 mil-

By **KARL JACOBY**

Los Angeles Times

Karl Jacoby is a professor of American history and the co-director of the Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Race at Columbia University. He is the author of The Strange Career of William Ellis: The Texas Slave Who Became a Mexican Millionaire, among other books.



lion—live in the 100-mile-wide zone overseen by CBP, which encompasses nine of the nation's 10 largest cities as well as several entire states, among them Hawaii, Florida, New Hampshire, Michigan, Connecticut and New Jersey.

President Trump's recent actions risk collapsing this already questionable distinction between the interior and the exterior for border policing purposes. During the protests in Minneapolis-St. Paul after the killing of George Floyd in late May, the CBP used a Predator drone to monitor the protests, even though its legal authority for doing so remains unclear. The Twin Cities are more than 250 miles from the closest international border.

In early June, CBP dispatched more than 350 agents to Washington, D.C., to suppress the protests there. CBP's acting Commissioner Mark Morgan defended the deployment in an inflammatory tweet that described the demonstrations as “acts of domestic terrorism.” For the past several days, CBP agents, including BORTAC units, have swarmed into Portland, against the wishes of the city's mayor and of Oregon's governor. The seeming justification for this deployment is an executive order Trump recently signed calling for the protection of federal memorials, statues and property. The Oregon attorney general has responded by filing a suit against the Trump administration for violating the protesters' civil rights.

Border Patrol agents view themselves as a military unit, one with greater discretion in searches, arrests and the use of force than other law enforcement agencies. Their violent treatment of peaceful protesters in Portland has outraged observers. But

See BORDER on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

‘School reopening needs even more help from Congress’

Editor’s Note: Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan submitted the following op-ed on what is needed to safely reopen schools in the Marianas and nationwide.

With 70,106 new cases the coronavirus daily count is greater today than in March, when local officials around the country decided to close schools to protect students, teachers, and staff from the spreading disease.

The shutdown has been a terrible hardship for all.

But it has reminded us how essential schools are to life in the Marianas and throughout America. Our schools are where working parents can be confident their children are cared for. Where families fallen on hard times know their children can be fed. Where our polarized communities find common ground cheering at sporting events and applauding artistic performances. And where the future of our nation is being formed by the knowledge and values we impart to the next generation.

We all want our schools reopened.

But as we have seen elsewhere in America, reopening too quickly, without proper precaution, in the middle of pandemic, can set us back and cost lives.

That is why I held a hearing, as chair of the Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary and Secondary Education, to ask what more Congress can do to bring America’s schools to life.

‘What harms one of us, harms us all’

Editor’s Note: The following was submitted by the non-profit organization Our Common Wealth 670.

In response to Mr. Don Farrell’s letter to the editor in the *Saipan Tribune* on June 19, Our Common Wealth 670 would like to set the record straight regarding House Joint Resolution 21-08, which calls on Gov. Ralph DLG Torres to oppose any additional destructive military training on and around our islands.

Mr. Farrell assumes that our opposition to destructive training and testing in the CNMI equates to not being adequately grateful to the United States. In our islands’ history, how many times have we heard this trope? As non-voting U.S. citizens, we have every right to a nuanced, multi-faceted opinion about our relationship to the United States; we are grateful for many things that the U.S. provides, but we also have an obligation to our families and neighbors to advocate for the maintenance of a certain level of safety and health in our community. We are concerned that the CNMI cannot flourish if it is forced to host destructive training ranges on the islands of Tinian and Pagan. We also believe that the Covenant was intended to be a two-way street, giving the people of the CNMI the right to exercise our own side of the political bargain.

In regards to Mr. Farrell’s comments about how environ-

TIME

From Page 8

construction and to numerous small businesses.

Since then, hundreds upon hundreds of police officer have been injured, with three federal officers just maybe blinded for the rest of their lives. People have been killed. Statues have been toppled. Graffiti has become a substitute for literacy. The substantially richer, ideologically supremacist truth-haters have minimized all of this, often belittled the desperate need for religion and demanded politically correct, evasive language if you are going to keep your job. The consequence will not be what the protesters are seeking.

Here are some of John Lewis’s final words to the protesters as reported by *Vanity Fair* magazine: “I know your pain, your rage, your sense of despair and hopelessness. Justice has, indeed, been denied for far too long. Rioting, looting, and burning is not the way. Organize. Demonstrate. Sit-in. Stand-up. Vote. Be constructive, not destructive. History has proven time and again that non-violent, peaceful protest is the way to achieve the justice and equality that we all deserve.”

We have already provided \$28 million to Marianas schools and \$13 billion nationwide in the CARES Act to pay teachers’ salaries and cover the transition to an online learning environment.

In May, the House passed the HEROES Act with another \$60 billion in emergency school funding to help schools buy personal protective equipment, sanitize classrooms, and make special arrangements for students and teachers in high-risk categories, so schools can safely reopen. \$81 million goes to Marianas schools.

And this month, the House passed the Reopen and Rebuild America’s Schools Act with another \$130 billion that can be used to reconfigure and modernize schools to protect the health of students and staff. The Marianas would receive about \$90 million.

Unfortunately, our Republican friends in the Senate have taken no action on the latest House proposals to help America’s schools safely reopen.

And the President has threatened, if they don’t reopen, he will “defund schools.”

But he has it backwards. In a national survey published Monday, 86% of America’s school principals said it is extremely important to get *more funding*, so their schools can safely reopen. Just the opposite of the President’s threat to defund schools.

To be clear, the President has no legal authority to withhold school money Congress appropriated. And neither the President nor Congress can take on the role of a national school board, forcing schools into opening, regardless of local health conditions.

‘What harms one of us, harms us all’

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In regards to Mr. Farrell’s comments about how environ-

BORDER

From Page 8

the fact is, the Border Patrol has been allowed to wield power in a similar manner along the border for decades, with often deadly consequences for Latinos.

On Monday, Trump said that he intended to expand the use of federal border agents across the country, dispatching them to cities run by Democratic mayors, such as New York and Chicago.

The administration’s use of the Border Patrol in Portland shows how readily it can be deployed as a militarized national police force operating outside the normal systems of oversight and accountability. We are long overdue for limiting the CBP’s extraordinary police powers and its 100-mile border zone. Otherwise, Portland will be just the first example of our repressive border regime spreading to the rest of the United States.

By GREGORIO KILILI C. SABLÁN

Special to the *Saipan Tribune*



Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan (Ind-MP) is the delegate of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in the U.S. Congress. He chairs the Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary and Secondary Education, and is Vice Chair for Insular Affairs on the House Natural Resources Committee. He is serving his sixth term.

Because the coronavirus threat looks much different in places like the Marianas than in hot spots like Texas and Florida, we have to recognize that how to reopen, when to reopen, and what the proper mix of physical and virtual classroom instruction will be, is best left to local decision-makers.

What the experts at today’s hearing told us—and what I intend to keep working for—is to give America’s schools the financial resources they need, so our young people can get back to learning in a way that keeps students, their families, teachers and school staff, all healthy and safe during this terrible pandemic.

that when the CNMI entered into the Covenant agreement, we did not commit our entire civilian population to military service, sacrificing our physical safety for “national security.” We did, however, become American citizens, which would imply that the U.S. military is responsible for protecting our quality of life, not sacrificing it.

Finally, in drafting our House Joint Resolution 21-8, we are expressing our understanding that what impacts one island impacts the entire archipelago, and generations to come. There is still contamination left over from World War II in our soils, our streambeds, nearshores and our very bodies. We must assume that all future contamination resulting from increased use of weapons technologies throughout our islands will have significant health impacts across our community and archipelago. We have little evidence that such contamination would be cleaned up by the military in a timely manner.

As for the CNMI Joint Military Training, we have ample reason to believe that it is *not* off the table. As recently as April 2019, Secretary of the Navy Richard Spencer officially requested that the Federal Aviation Administration restrict airspace over Tinian because “[t]he commercial airport on Tinian is within three nautical miles of the military lease area where the live-fire range complex will be sited and restricted airspace placed above it.”

Additionally, on Feb. 3, 2020, *Tinian Women Association v. USDN* finally reached the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals, during which the Department of the Navy’s legal counsel argued that “the training ranges proposed on Tinian would not only serve United States forces but also serve United States allies, which would advance international relationships and international training.” We take this as strong evidence that the Navy continues to push for the destructive training and testing activities mentioned in the CJMT.

We need to be aware of how military plans for our islands would affect our communities and our children’s futures, including how they overlap with one another to produce cumulative impacts over time. The most recent version of the CJMT, which outlines the increased use of live-fire training on Pagan as well as the continued use of active sonar that has been responsible for recent beaching incidences of whales and dolphins in the Marianas Archipelago, can be found here: www.cnmijointmilitarytrainingeis.com.

Our joint resolution encourages all those who seek to protect the Marianas to stand up together as military plans for our home continue to roll out with no end in sight. HJR 21-08 challenges the CNMI community to prioritize our people; for far too long, we have allowed ourselves to be relegated as second-class citizens subjected to militarization efforts that harm island communities throughout Oceania.

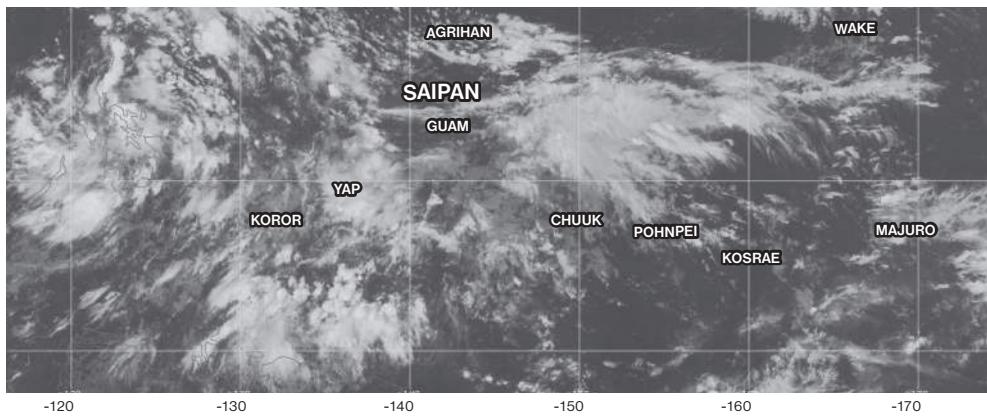
In conclusion, we believe what harms one of us, harms us all. What harms one island, harms the entire archipelago. We stand with you, and we hope you will stand with us.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Mostly cloudy with a chance of showers and thunderstorms. East winds 5 to 15 mph becoming southeast after midnight.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
90°	79°	90°	79°	90°
90°	79°	90°	79°	90°
90°	79°	90°	79°	89°
90°	79°	90°	79°	78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:39 AM, TUESDAY, JULY 28, 2020

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite and radar show a line of heavier showers and thunderstorms moving west of Rota and Guam with a few showers elsewhere in local waters. East and southeast of the Marianas showers and thunderstorms are more numerous along an approaching surface trough. To the north, a broad area of showers and thunderstorms is affecting the far northern Mariana Islands due to the interaction of trade-wind convergence and an upper-level trough and low centered near 18N148E. Tinian and Saipan are sitting within the buffer zone between deeper moisture to the south and slightly subsident and drier mid- and upper-level air. Latest scatterometry show gentle to moderate winds with buoys indicating seas around 4 feet.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklist-household-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
- Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
- Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available,

- able, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors



CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mp, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

MICRONESIA		
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorm	88° / 81°
Palau	Thunderstorm	85° / 77°
Yap	Thunderstorm	84° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorm	87° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorm	87° / 78°
Kosrae	Thunderstorm	86° / 80°
Majuro	Thunderstorm	85° / 81°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:57 AM	6:48 PM
Thursday	5:58 AM	6:47 PM
Friday	5:59 AM	6:47 PM
Saturday	5:59 AM	6:47 PM
Sunday	5:59 AM	6:46 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	12:48 AM	1:53 PM
Thursday	-	1:36 AM	2:52 PM
Friday	-	2:28 AM	3:52 PM
Saturday	-	3:23 AM	4:50 PM
Sunday	-	4:19 AM	5:45 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE		
Auckland	Mostly Cloudy	58° / 52°
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	89° / 73°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	91° / 82°
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	85° / 75°
London	Partly Cloudy	75° / 58°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	81° / 62°
Manila	Thunderstorm	90° / 78°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	61° / 47°
Miami	Partly Cloudy	87° / 80°
New York	Mostly Sunny	94° / 76°
Osaka	Thunderstorm	87° / 78°
Paris	Mostly Sunny	79° / 59°
Busan	Thunderstorm	80° / 74°
Rome	Sunny	96° / 71°
Salem	Thunderstorm	85° / 72°
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	65° / 55°
Seoul	Thunderstorm	83° / 74°
Tokyo	Showers	79° / 68°
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	94° / 75°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
2:02 AM	HIGH TIDE	2.12
9:26 AM	LOW TIDE	0.30
4:14 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.71
9:10 PM	LOW TIDE	1.25

FLIGHT SCHEDULE

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA 117 7:30AM 8:10AM 1,4,6

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA 174 5:50AM 6:30AM 1,4,6

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. (The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301.2	8:30AM	9:00AM	Tues/Fri
1303	3:30PM	4:00PM	Tues/Fri

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101.2	9:30AM	10:00AM	Tues/Fri
3103	4:30PM	5:00PM	Tues/Fri

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1205	11:00	11:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104			



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR OF SAIPAN PUBLIC NOTICE

The Office of the Mayor of Saipan will start conducting onsite visits to homes and commercial and non-commercial buildings in the Koblerville homestead subdivision and immediate surrounding subdivisions beginning August 3, 2020, for the purpose of delivering in person to each homeowner and owner of a commercial or non-commercial building their property's designated street address number. The map of the initial project area of Koblerville homestead subdivision, former MIHA turnkey subdivision, and Tottotville subdivision is shown below.

Mayor David M. Apatang respectfully requests the support and understanding of the homeowners and owners of buildings in the project area to welcome his office's street addressing staff and his office's consultant staff who will be visiting their homes and buildings beginning August 3, 2020.

The next project area will be announced at least two weeks before the initial project (as shown on the map below) is completed.

Mayor Apatang appreciates your support and understanding as his office endeavors to carry out the addressing project so that every home and commercial and non-commercial building will be numbered.



Business

Kensington's Loria re-opens tomorrow



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Appealing to all appetites, Kensington Hotel's Loria International Restaurant is back to give you top-notch dining experience on island.

By BEA CABRERA
beecabbie@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

After opening OHAS Café earlier this month, Kensington Hotel brings the hotel dining experience to another level during the COVID-19 pandemic as everybody's favorite, Loria International Restaurant, re-opens tomorrow, July 30, with a theme called "Time for Authentic Gourmet Parades."

"A Time for Authentic Gourmet Parades" showcases exotic flavors from Asian and Western cuisines and "A La Minute" buffet-style experience where dishes are prepared right away when you order it. All menus are served a la minute where guests can order 17 kinds of world cuisine constantly without extra charge until they are satisfied.

"...Loria intends to evoke a 'fine dining' ambiance where guests can unleash their appetite for great food and adventure... We always start with freshly prepared bread, butter, garden salad, and soup of the day to get the taste buds tingling. For lunch and dinner, I added a new spin on some dishes that will be featured for the theme tomorrow," Kensington Hotel executive chef Lee Inok said.

"The array of food will include lasagna with bolognese made of beef ragweed, vegetables, wine, cheese, and

tomato sauce that have been boiled for more than five hours and is even more special with a pesto sauce made from basil grown directly at 'Kensington Garden.' 'Padak' is a famous Korean crispy fried chicken dish marinated in a little bit of sweet and salty soy sauce and topped with green onions. For dessert, we have espresso tiramisu to end the dining experience right," Inok added.

Loria International Restaurant is open four days a week. Thursday and Friday serve dinner only from 6pm to 2pm, Saturday open for lunch from 11am to 2pm, and dinner from 6pm to 9pm, and Sunday open for lunch from 11am to 2pm.

For the whole month of August, Loria will offer special discounts and offer free "Mimosa" coupons that people can get from Kensington Hotel's Facebook page. For more

information, call (670) 237-4584 or go to their website: kensontsaipan.com

More promos are given away to Kensington Hotel's loyal guests as the 5-star hotel recently launched "Blissful Getaway" Room package for locals that includes swimming pass and a shopping special offer called "Luxury Gallery Shopping Chance" featuring name and luxury brands that

are on sale. Kensington Hotel also launched "Tribute to COVID-19 Heroes" Room Package for the month of August that includes lunch and dinner for COVID-19 frontline workers—CNMI COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. workers. For more information, call (670) 322-3311 or email reservations@kensington-saipan.com.

For more information, call (670) 322-3311 or email reservations@kensington-saipan.com.



Kensington Hotel's Loria International Restaurant offers a la minute scrumptious dishes that uses locally sourced ingredients.

Nation

White House, Democrats at odds on virus aid but talking

WASHINGTON (AP)—Unemployment assistance, eviction protections and other relief for millions of Americans are at stake as White House officials launched negotiations late Monday with House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Democratic Senate leader Chuck Schumer on a new coronavirus aid package that's teetering in Congress ahead of looming deadlines.

While Senate Republicans struggled to roll out their own \$1 trillion proposal, Pelosi implored the White House and GOP lawmakers to stop the infighting and come to the negotiating table with Democrats. Aid runs out Friday for a \$600/weekly jobless benefit that Democrats call a lifeline for out-of-work Americans. Republicans want to slash it to \$200 a week, saying that the federal bump is too generous on top of state benefits and is discouraging employees from returning to work.

"This is wrong. We have to do what's right for the American people," Pelosi said at the Capitol afterward.

With the virus death toll climbing and 4.2 million infections nationwide, both parties are eager for a deal. There is widespread agreement that more money is needed for virus testing, to help schools prepare to open in the fall and to shore up small businesses. Voters are assessing their handling of the virus crisis before the November election, and President Donald Trump's standing is at one of the lowest points of his term, according to a new AP-NORC poll.

Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and White House chief of staff Mark Meadows met with Pelosi and Schumer for nearly two hours at the speaker's office. The two top negotiators would be back at it Tuesday.

"Good meeting," Meadows said.

Trump lawyers renew legal assault on tax records subpoena

NEW YORK (AP)—President Donald Trump's lawyers filed fresh arguments Monday to try to block a criminal subpoena for his tax records, saying it was issued in bad faith, might have been politically motivated and calling it a harassment of the president.

Lawyers filed a rewritten lawsuit in Manhattan federal court to challenge the subpoena by a state prosecutor on grounds they believe conform with how the U.S. Supreme Court said the subpoena can be contested.

They asked a judge to declare it "invalid and unenforceable."

The high court ruled earlier this month that Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus Vance Jr. could subpoena tax records from Trump's accountant over his objections.

But the court said Trump could challenge the subpoena as improper just as anyone else can.

Trump's lawyers had argued that the president could not be criminally investigated while he was in office.

In their new court papers, Trump's lawyers said the subpoena of his tax records was "wildly overbroad" and "amounts to harassment of the President."

They said it was issued in bad faith, copying a Congressional subpoena.

"Whether the District Attorney photocopied a congressional subpoena for political reasons, for efficiency reasons, or for both, he knowingly and intentionally issued a wildly overbroad subpoena for the President's records," the lawyers said.

They said the subpoena seeks detailed information about all of Trump's assets in the U.S. and abroad for a 10-year period.

"Simply put, it asks for everything," the lawyers wrote.

Vance sought the tax records in part for a probe of how Trump's then-personal lawyer arranged during the 2016 presidential race to keep the porn actress Stormy Daniels and model Karen McDougal from airing claims of extramarital affairs with

The Republicans come to the negotiating table hobbled by infighting and delays. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., said he wanted to hit "pause" on new spending after Congress approved a sweeping \$2.2 trillion relief package in March. But Pelosi, D-Calif., took the opposite approach, swiftly passing a \$3 trillion effort with robust Democratic support. In the intervening months, the crisis deepened.

McConnell, flanked by top GOP chairs Monday at the Capitol, unveiled his long-awaited proposal. It provides some \$105 billion to schools and colleges, the K-12 funds tilted toward campuses that reopen with in-person learning. There's more money for virus testing, \$15 billion for child care centers and benefits for businesses, including a fresh round of loans under the Paycheck Protection Program, tax breaks and a sweeping liability shield from COVID-19-related lawsuits.

Republicans left out new money for cash-strapped states and cities, a priority for Democrats, but included another round of \$1,200 direct payments to households that Democrats also support. Based on an earlier formula, people making \$75,000 or less would receive the full amount, with the benefit phased out for those earning above \$99,000, or double for married couples filing joint taxes.

The GOP bill also provides \$1.7 billion for a new FBI headquarters in Washington, a non-pandemic-related expense that's a top priority for the president but not for lawmakers or McConnell. Trump's hotel is across the street from it on Pennsylvania Avenue.

"Senate Republicans have offered another bold framework to help our nation," McConnell said. He called it a starting point in talks.

Trump. Trump has denied the affairs.

Vance, a Democrat, has requested eight years of the Republican president's personal and corporate tax records.

Danny Frost, a spokesperson for Vance, declined comment Monday.

The Supreme Court had returned the case to a federal judge in Manhattan who has arranged for both sides to finish filing their legal arguments over challenges to the subpoena by mid-August.

Last year, the same judge ruled against Trump in a written opinion that was upheld by the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals and the Supreme Court.

In their new court filing, Trump's lawyers said the tax subpoena "demands voluminous documents related to every facet of the business and financial affairs of the President and numerous associated entities—from the banal to the complex, from drafts and memoranda to formal records, from source documents to summaries."

Asia

Duterte threatens criminals, seeks death penalty for drugs

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte warned would-be criminals on Monday that “bodies will pile up” if they turn to robberies and other crimes during the coronavirus pandemic and urged that the death penalty be restored for illegal drugs.

Duterte touched on a wide range of issues in his annual state of the nation address before Congress, at times turning combative. He threatened two leading telecommunication companies with closure for what he said was their spotty cellphone service but expressed helplessness in response to China’s seizure of Philippine-claimed territories in the South China Sea.

Duterte acknowledged that his government’s handling of the coronavirus pandemic was “far from perfect” and but gave assurances that “we will not stop until we get things right and better for you.”

He sought congressional passage of a bill that will again grant him emergency powers to realign government budgets for use in the continuing health crisis.

There have been widespread complaints about the govern-

ment’s response to the outbreak, including long delays in the delivery of cash and food aid to millions of poor families and the inability to reach a targeted number of daily virus tests.

Duterte

The Philippines remains a Southeast Asian hot spot for the virus, with more than 80,000 confirmed cases, including nearly 2,000 deaths.

Duterte said people were worried not only about the virus but also about safety and public mobility during the pandemic. He said crimes may increase but pledged that he wouldn’t permit them to spiral out of control in any city.

Addressing would-be criminals, Duterte warned, “you know what will happen to you.”

“You commit holdups, you commit rape, you commit all sorts of things and you harm the public, then I’ll be your enemy,” said Duterte, who built a political name with his extra-tough approach to crime as a mayor. “If you return to the old ways, there will be piles of bodies again and I will surely hunt you down.”

He urged lawmakers to

swiftly pass legislation reimposing the death penalty for illegal drugs, saying the drug menace has destroyed families and the youth.

Duterte’s bloody anti-drug crackdown, which he launched

after taking office in mid-2016, has left thousands of mostly poor suspects dead and alarmed human rights groups and Western governments. He and law enforcers have denied committing extrajudicial killings, although he has openly threatened drug dealers with death.

Hundreds of protesters defied police threats of arrests and rallied at the University of the Philippines on Monday to condemn the drug campaign killings and a new anti-terror law they say could muzzle legitimate dissent.

They also protested the closure of the country’s largest TV network after a committee of the House of Representatives, dominated by Duterte’s allies, rejected a new 25-year franchise for ABS-CBN Inc., which Duterte has repeatedly threatened with closure over critical reporting.

Confirmed coronavirus cases surpass 100,000 in Indonesia

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—Indonesia announced Monday that its confirmed coronavirus cases have surpassed 100,000, the highest amount in Southeast Asia.

Cases continue to rise across the world’s fourth-most populous nation as testing remains sharply limited and businesses continue to reopen. The health ministry announced 1,525 more cases on Monday, bringing the country’s confirmed total to 100,303. The actual number is thought to be considerably higher because of the low testing and other factors.

“Today the Indonesian nation has reached a psychologically significant number, which is 100,000, and this reminds all parties that Indonesia is still in a state of crisis.” National COVID-19 Mitigation Task Force spokesman Wiku Adisasmito said. “We must not be careless in dealing with COVID-19.”

While neighboring countries imposed lockdowns and closed their borders, Indonesia’s leaders attributed an apparent early success with the pandemic to prayer and took few precautions against the virus’s spread across the vast ar-

chipago nation until the first official cases were confirmed in early March.

As the virus began to quickly spread—especially in metropolitan areas—the government instituted a lockdown in six regions of the country.

Those restrictions began to be slowly lifted in early June. Malls and restaurants reopened after installing plastic shields and implementing temperature checks, flights restarted across the country, and motorcycle taxis resumed operations with plastic shields separating drivers from their customers.

But owners said they know of no foolproof ways to prevent the spread of the virus in their businesses.

“As a businessman, we are only able to take such actions,” said Jakarta coffee shop owner Amir Faisal, who installed acrylic shields at his cafe’s tables.

Some health experts remain critical of the government’s decision to reopen businesses.

“The government is only thinking about the economy, not the cases. The increase in people’s activities, gatherings, and work are potentially increasing the numbers,” said epidemiol-

ogy expert Pandu Riono from the University of Indonesia.

Indonesia surpassed 50,000 confirmed cases at the end of June, with the government saying the increased number of infections were linked to workplaces such as offices and factories. Less than a month later, the number has doubled.

“I also don’t know when the peak will come. Seeing fluctuating developments, there are areas that have decreased cases, some have increased,” said Doni Monardo, chief of the COVID-19 task force.

Testing for the virus remains at one of the lowest rates in the world. In rural parts of the country test results can take days to get back. Some sociologists say a lack of coordination between the national and local governments has led to missteps.

“There is a communication problem regarding the dissemination efforts from the government to people in society,” said Daisy Indira Yasmine, a sociologist at the University of Indonesia. “While the government is trying to tell people to follow health protocols for COVID-19, there is a gap and distortion between them.”

World

Iraq PM orders probe after 2 protesters killed in clashes

BAGHDAD (AP)—Iraq’s prime minister said Monday he had ordered an investigation into the killing of two Iraqi security officials. One official said the rockets targeted a runway used by Iraqi helicopters, close to where American forces are present. One helicopter was damaged. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity in line with regulations.

Separately, four katyusha rockets landed in Camp Taji,

north of Baghdad, which houses U.S.-led coalition troops, according to three Iraqi security officials. The violence comes after months of quiet in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic, and were an embarrassment to Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi, who has vowed to meet protester demands by holding early elections and investigating the death of hundreds of protesters at the hands of security forces in recent months.

Torrential rains wreak destruction in Yemen, killing dozens

SANA, Yemen (AP)—Flash floods have ravaged swaths of war-torn Yemen, leaving dozens dead and destroying thousands of homes, security officials and an aid group said Monday.

In southern Yemen, 33,000 displaced people who were sheltering in camps lost their tents and belongings in the floods, the ICRC reported, adding that dozens have died across the country.

At a time when Yemen is already mired in escalated fighting, widespread hunger and a major coronavirus outbreak, the spate of torrential rains is exacerbating the world’s worst humanitarian disaster.

“The combination of coronavirus, conflict and heavy rains this year is hurting millions of Yemenis across the

sweeping away roads and dozens of cars, hundreds of newly displaced families in the area have become stranded without access to food. Dirty floodwater has contaminated wells that many Yemenis rely on for water. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren’t authorized to brief the media.

A hotel marooned in muddy water in the capital, Sanaa, collapsed late Monday, killing four people and injuring three. Rescue teams are still searching for other missing people.

DEATH AND FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

† Rosa Castro Maratita

Fondly known as “Chai”
August 28, 1947 – July 21, 2020 & was called to join our Creator on Tuesday, July 21, 2020
at the Rota Health Center



In her new life, she now joins her:

Husband: †Edward Ulloa Maratita
Parents: †Ramon DL Cruz and †Mercedes Mesngon Castro
Siblings: †Loretta Castro Dolph, †Ramon M. Castro, †Esperanza Castro Chong, †Isabel Songao Manglona
In-Laws: †Raimundo H. Manglona, †Manuel L. Chong
Parents in Law: †Pedro Songao and †Maria Ulloa Maratita
(Reared) Parents in Law: †Ramon Borja and †Carmen Ulloa Blas
In-Laws: †Juan and †Jose Maratita, †Mametto U. and †Leonisa F. Maratita, †Isabel S. Maratita, †Jose Q. Babauta, †Joaquin J. Castro, †Henry S. Sablan

Her wonderful and loving memories will forever live in the hearts of her:

Children: Edward Jr. and Lea Del Rosario Maratita (Frannie, Edward III, Joachim Ramon, and Ella Rose)
Cheryl M. and Antonio C. Reyes (Auston, Adina, Anesha, Mai’Ana, Anina and Antonio II)
Peter Ray C. Maratita
Dominic C. and Cheslin E. Maratita (Emilio, Chen, Rose Ophilia, and Dominic Jr.)

Siblings and In-Laws:

Joaquin M. and Karen H. Castro and Family
Linda C. and Romeo Cinco and Family
William Dolph and Family
Flora T. Castro and Family

In-Laws:

Melchor U. Maratita and Family, Gloria U. Maratita and Family
Beata (Vicky) M. and Francisco R. Sablan and Family, Elisa M. Castro and Family
Delia M. and Ramon B. Camacho and Family, Romana Maratita and Jesus S. Cabrera and Family
Congresswoman Janet U. Maratita and Family, Juan U. and Tracy A. Maratita and Family,
Vicente U. and Delia S. Maratita and Family, Rosalinda Ulloa and Donald C. Camacho and Family

(Reared) In-Laws:

Raymond U. and Margaret A. Blas and Family, Joseph U. Blas and Family,
Annie U. Blas and Family, Mayor June U. Blas and Family, Colasita B. and Rodney Gumabon

Chai will also be missed by numerous God Children, nieces, nephews, and friends.

Daily rosary is being offered at San Francisco De Borja Church, Songsong Village, Rota at 6:30pm

On Saturday, August 1st, 2020, her body will be escorted from the Rota Hospital Divine Mercy Chapel to San Francisco de Borja Church at 7:00am, followed by the Responso and Holy Rosary.
Mass of Christian Burial will be at 10:00am followed by interment services at the San Jose Cemetery.

Si Yuus Ma’ase’ for your thoughts and prayers,

Edward Jr./Leah, Cheryl/Antonio, Peter Ray, and Dominic/Cheslin and Children
The Castro and Maratita Family



Good Housekeeping

BY JENNA RYU
(TNS)

Kissing and cuddling look a bit different this summer.

As coronavirus cases continue to spike throughout the nation, social distancing rules remain heavily enforced. While many of us have been quarantining with our loved ones, other couples aren't as fortunate and have been temporarily separated by stay-at-home orders meant to minimize contact with non-family members.

Cue in the start of many unexpected long-distance relationships.

It's important to remember that while distance may be difficult and frustrating, it's not forever. From phone apps to traditional love letters, here are some creative ways for you to stay connected with your loved ones while staying apart.

Watch a movie with Netflix Party

While it might not be the same as going to the movie theater together, you can still stream your Netflix favorite with Netflix Party, a Google Chrome extension that allows you to synchronize video playback. You can even chat while you watch together.

Carmelia Ray, a celebrity matchmaker and star of the reality series "Mom vs Matchmaker," suggests alternating who gets to choose the movie, adding that "it's really great when you can learn about each other's interests through Netflix choices."

Send some cute (inexpensive) gifts

We're all trying to save money during the pandemic, but that doesn't mean we can't find inexpensive ways to show our love from a distance. Ship your loved one some homemade baked goods, or a cute stuffed animal.

"Little caring acts can have a big impact, and they have the power to redirect your mind away from what's missing in your life," says couples counselor Alicia Muñoz, author of "The Couple's Quiz Book."

Take walks together (virtually)

The next time you go for a stroll or take your dog out, bring your partner along via FaceTime.

"When you're outside, you feel better; when you feel better, you look better," says psychiatrist Ish Major, host of TV's "Marriage Boot Camp: Reality Stars." "When you look better, you do better, and that includes doing relationships!"

Make a digital photo album or slide show

It's sad to not be able to see your boyfriend or girlfriend in person, so try compiling a digital photo album.

"Looking back at past memories is a bonding experience that allows each of you to express how you both felt in those moments and why they were special," says Ray.

Share Spotify playlists

Let your partner know which tunes are



Kiss me through the phone: Having fun with your long-distance relationship during the pandemic

stuck in your head by creating a playlist on Spotify. You can even make a collaborative playlist that allows you both to add, delete or reorder songs.

Ray suggests personalizing this activity by creating playlists such as "Shane's workout songs" or "How I feel about you." Sit down for virtual dinner dates. Who says you can't have a romantic dinner? Synchronize a time to cook or order dinner together, and video chat as you eat and talk. Major recommends treating it like a "real date": getting dressed up, having a glass of wine, and setting the scene.

Mail handwritten love letters

Tell them you love them with words, not emojis. It's intimate, meaningful, and, most of all, tangible.

"Time and space aren't such insurmountable obstacles when you can still hear about each other's lives and express love," Muñoz says.

Play Words with Friends

You might want to hang out with your significant other without always calling or video chatting. Play games such as Words With Friends together to stay connected while having some fun. Ray suggests spicing things up with a friendly competition like loser buys Uber Eats.

Ditch the texting, try some voice memos. If you want to give your thumbs a break, try sending each other audio recordings about your day, what you plan to do later, or rants about cabin fever. (You can also use walkie-talkie apps such as Voxer.)

Voice memos are "a powerful and

efficient way of letting someone know they're on your mind," Muñoz says.

Learn their hobbies ... and record it!

Have you been meaning to learn how to play guitar? To bake that intriguing recipe? Now is the time, and you can show your partner your progress.

"Even if you don't share the same interests, the fact that you care enough to share it and watch it shows your partner that they matter," says Ray.

Start your own book club

Choose a book together that both of you will enjoy, and give yourself a week to read it independently before discussing on Zoom. (Hint: Maybe bring some wine to make your book discussion a little more exciting.)

"It's a shared experience that only

the two of you know about, and those types of experiences lead to a deeper bond," says Major.

Work out together

Stay in shape by taking a virtual yoga or workout class together and video chatting during the process. Muñoz suggests lifting weights or even taking the same Peloton class on Zoom or FaceTime.

Learn a new language together

You can use Duolingo, a free mobile app, to pick up a new language or even take an online course with your significant other.

"If visiting the Great Wall of China is on your bucket list, perhaps studying Mandarin or Cantonese together would be a practical way of spending time and planning your future vacation," Ray says.

Get to know each other even better with personality quizzes

Try taking free online personality assessments, such as the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator. You may surprise each other to see how much or little you differ on traits like conscientiousness or extroversion.

Another game to get to know each other is "What I Thought Was True."

"Name three things you used to think were true about yourself, but now you think differently. Name three things you thought were true about your partner when you first met but no longer believe to be true. Share those things with each other. It's the equivalent of a software update for your relationship," Major says.

Plan your next trip together

Map out your next in-person date – and make it extravagant. Take a road trip. Make that fancy brunch reservation. Book a hotel in a tropical area. Seeing your partner for the first time since being apart will be a memorable experience, says Muñoz.

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Life & Style

Tom Hanks and wife get Greek citizenship for wildfire aid

ATHENS, Greece (AP)—A

point of pride for Greece was touched by controversy Monday, as the country's prime minister was criticized by an opposition party for using a military helicopter during a trip to celebrate with Tom Hanks and his wife, Rita Wilson, on being granted Greek citizenship.

In an Instagram post on Sunday, Prime Minister Kyriakos shared a photograph of showing him and his wife Mareva Grabowski-Mitsotaki at a meeting with Hanks and Wilson, who were holding up

their new Greek passports.

"Rita Wilson and Tom Hanks are now proud Greek citizens," Mitsotakis wrote in the post.

Greece offered citizenship to Hanks, Wilson, and their two children, in recognition of the family's help in raising funds for the victims of a deadly wildfire near Athens in 2018.

Wilson, an actress and producer, has Greek and Bulgarian ancestry.

Government spokesman Stelios Petsas said Monday that the prime minister and his wife had used a commercial

flight on Saturday to travel to the island of Paros, and then traveled to nearby Antiparos, where Hanks and Wilson have a holiday home. They then used

a military helicopter for a trip to the ancient theater of Epidaurus on Sunday to watch a performance of an ancient tragedy.

The main left-wing oppo-

sition Syriza party accused the prime minister of using Greece's military helicopters like a "personal radio taxi."

Petsas argued that Mitsota-

kis was performing his duties as prime minister by attending an "important cultural event."

Neither Petsas nor Syriza referred to Hanks by name.

Octavia Spencer: Cast more actors with disabilities

BOSTON (AP)—



Oscar-winning actress Octavia Spencer says Hollywood needs to do better casting people with disabilities.

The star of "The Help" and "Hidden Figures" is part of a new video campaign timed with the 30th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act this month.

"Casting able-bodied actors in roles for characters with disabilities is offensive, unjust, and deprives an entire community of people from opportunities," she says in the nearly three-minute clip.

Spencer argues that the industry needs to recognize that "nothing can replace lived experience and authentic representation." She also notes how the entertainment industry has been notoriously slow at em-

bracing diversity.

"It's only been a few decades since white actors would portray Black, Asian and even Native American characters on screen," Spencer says. "There is no reason that we should continue to repeat the same mistakes of the past. Together, we should and can do better."

The campaign was launched by the Ruderman Family Foundation, a Boston-based organization that advocates for people with disabilities.

The foundation earlier this year issued an open letter to the entertainment industry making a similar plea that was signed by George Clooney, Joaquin Phoenix, Ed Norton, Bryan Cranston, Mark Ruffalo, Glenn Close, Eva Longoria and other prominent names in Hollywood.

LONDON (AP)—A lawyer for British tabloid The Sun claimed Monday that Johnny Depp was "a hopeless addict" whose violence toward ex-wife Amber Heard was fueled by misogyny and a toxic combination of drink, drugs, jealousy and anger.

Attorney Sasha Wass was summing up at Depp's li-

bel case against the newspaper over an article alleging he physically abused Heard—a high-stakes celebrity trial in which the reputations of both former spouses are at stake.

Depp is suing News Group Newspapers, to Heard.



publisher of The Sun, and the newspaper's executive editor, Dan Wootton, at the High Court in London over an April 2018 article, which called him a "wife-beater." He strongly denies being violent

The case is due to end Tuesday, but judge Andrew Nicol is not expected to deliver his ruling for several weeks.

"There is no doubt that Mr. Depp regularly and systematically abused his wife," Wass said in her closing argument. "The characterization that he is a wife beater is entirely truthful."

Oprah's O Mag to end regular print editions after 20 years

O, The Oprah Magazine is ending its regular monthly print editions with the December issue after 20 years of publication.

The brand, which is among the most recognizable magazines in the U.S., is not going away but will become more "more digitally-centric," a Hearst spokes-

woman Monday said. There will be "some form of print" after the December issue "but what it is exactly is still being worked out," she said.

Oprah Winfrey launched O with Hearst in 2000 and



today is the editorial director. "I'm proud of this team and what we have delivered to our readers over the past 20 years," Winfrey said in a statement provided by Hearst. "I look forward to the next step

in our evolution."

Hearst declined to answer why it was dropping the regular print edition, saying only it was a "natural next step" for the brand. Magazines have been trying to grow their digital properties as print advertising shrinks and people spend more time online.

Man smitten by second cousin hides relationship from wife

DEAR ABBY: Three months ago, my husband ran into a second cousin he hadn't seen in 40 years. They were close for a short time during high school and saw each other a couple times after that.

I was not aware until recently that he had looked her up on social media and has been communicating with her every day since then. I didn't think much of it when he did tell me—until one night when he stayed on the computer with her until 3 a.m.

He has lied to me about the number of times he has been online with her and, if she calls or texts, he tells me it is someone else. She sent him pictures—which I saw—yet he denied receiving them. One time he forgot to sign off on a message he sent and, of course, I read it. To my shock, he was confiding a lot of things he has done while married to me that I was unaware of. It hurt me deeply, and I told him so.

Recently I was in the hospital. When I called him a couple of times at night, he claimed he didn't pick up because he was "tired." I found out later he was on the computer with her.

I have asked him more than once why this relationship is so private, and he says they are just friends. But when I asked to see some of the things he has written to her, he refused to show me. I said fine, then I will ask HER. Well, he blew up!

When I told him it hurts me that he spends so much time with her in the evening, he didn't give an answer. Am I overreacting? If so, can you please tell me how to settle down and

deal with what is happening?

COUSIN TROUBLE IN THE MIDWEST

DEAR COUSIN TROUBLE: You are not overreacting. It's time to do what you said you were going to do—call the woman and ask her what has been going on. After she fills you in, ask yourself if you still want to be married to a man who has cheated on you emotionally and probably physically.

If you feel there is any hope of saving your marriage, offer your husband the option of seeing a marriage and family therapist together. However, knowing he has no compunction about lying to you or any respect for your feelings, you might prefer to simply consult a lawyer about what your next steps should be.

DEAR ABBY: I am an 18-year-old woman. My parents are divorced. My father says I should be out having fun and I owe no explanations to anyone. My mother, on the other hand, is very strict. I respect her wishes and don't do what most people my age would do. I try to be very careful with what I say in any conversation with her, but it always ends up with her very angry toward me. I want to live my life or at least try to. What do I do?

CLUELESS TEEN IN TEXAS

DEAR TEEN: An 18-year-old should be carefree and en-

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

gaged in self-discovery. But people of every age are having to hunker down and curtail their social activities these days because their lives could depend on it. And as to owing no explanations to anyone, until you are self-supporting and on your own, you WILL have to be accountable.

Your mother may be feeling insecure because her daughter is now a young adult rather than her little girl who needs protecting. She may also be reacting to the "advice" your dad is doing out. You are going to have to figure out what triggers your mother's anger during those conversations and find a happy medium.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Depth even more critical in NBA title chase



NEW YORK (AP)—NBA teams recognize that bench strength will likely be more of a factor than usual during this pandemic-delayed title chase in which a positive coronavirus test could sideline an elite player at any moment.

“Depth is going to be at a premium for everyone,” New Orleans Pelicans general manager David Griffin said.

The good news for teams is that league officials said last week that 346 players had been tested on the NBA campus since the last coronavirus results were announced July 13, with no positives. But the reality they also recognize is how a positive test could impact a team’s roster.

Notable players to test positive for the coronavirus before teams left for Disney’s Wide World of Sports include Houston’s Russell Westbrook, Sacramento’s Harrison Barnes and Milwaukee’s Eric Bledsoe, though all of them have since cleared protocols to return to Florida. Washington’s Bradley Beal heads the list of players who have opted out of participating in the restart.

The Brooklyn Nets won’t have Wilson Chandler, Spencer Dinwiddie, DeAndre Jordan and Taurean Prince for the restart and already were without injured stars Kevin Durant and Kyrie Irving.

And that doesn’t even account for basketball-related setbacks such as the foot injury Sacramento Kings forward Marvin Bagley sustained in practice to knock him out of the restart.

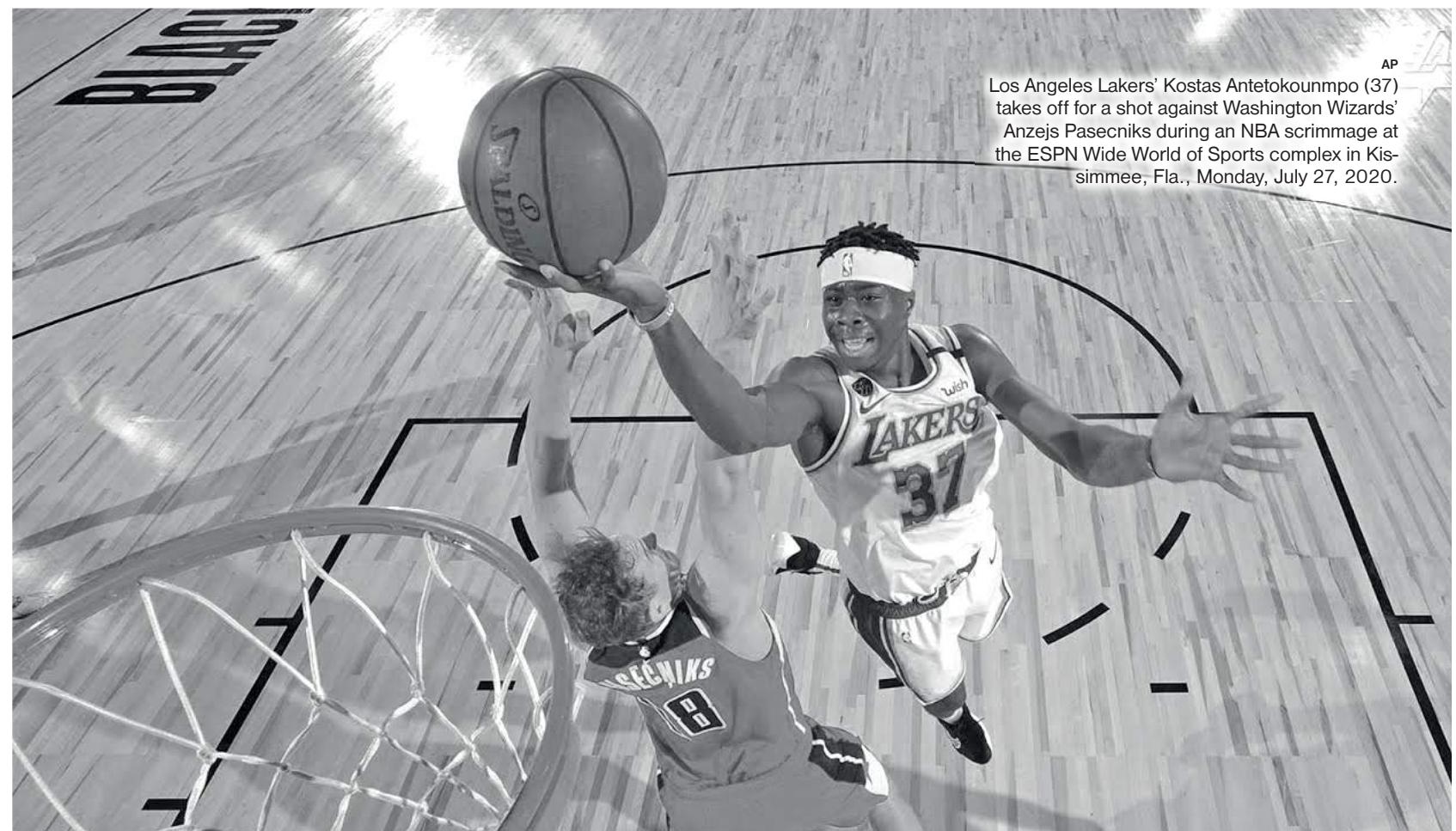
Because of the 4+-month break between regular-season games, teams are likely to give their starters limited minutes, particularly in the early going.

The increased risk of losing players for an extended period at any time also will require teams to prepare backup plans.

“If you’ve been in the league a long time, you’ve had to deal with one injury, two injuries, three injuries, and the timing of it can be not the best,” Milwaukee Bucks coach Mike Budenholzer said. “You have to find a way to continue to persevere and work and get better and find ways to advance if it’s the playoffs. We’re in a bubble. It’s unique. It’s different. But there are things that all of us have had to deal with if you’ve been in long playoff runs for a long time.”

New sights, sounds for TV audience

During a normal NBA season, the sights and sounds of arenas serve as both a showy backdrop and home court ad-



Los Angeles Lakers' Kostas Antetokounmpo (37) takes off for a shot against Washington Wizards' Anzejs Pasecniks during an NBA scrimmage at the ESPN Wide World of Sports complex in Kissimmee, Fla., Monday, July 27, 2020. AP

vantage for its teams.

But with no fans allowed in the stands for the upcoming restart because of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the league’s Orlando-area bubble restart will have a decidedly different feel for both players and coaches, as well as the television audience watching from afar.

The NBA has promised to do its best to bring some of the familiar noises and environment that players are used to playing in and fans have grown accustomed to seeing when the curtain officially drops on Thursday night.

Count former NBA coach Stan Van Gundy, who will serve as an analyst for one of TNT’s broadcasts on opening night, among those curious to see how players will be affected by the atypical setup and what kind of previously inaudible insights on the court could be available to fans peering in remotely.

“I think the idea is right, because with no noise, it’s almost eerie,” Van Gundy said. “I mean, it’s just not what any player or coach is used to.”

Visually, the NBA will be taking advantage of the unique setting by trying to bring fans even closer to the action on the court via a 31-camera setup, the majority of which will be operated robotically.

NBA head of Next Gen telecast Sara Zuckert said the league will be employing an “audio soundscape” that will try to mimic—at least as much as possible—teams’ home arenas.

The league began testing some of their new enhancements during scrimmages

last week, though they are saving a lot for when games officially count.

“Amplifying microphones in the arena can really lead to an enhanced feel and sound. You’ll hear a lot of sneaker squeaks and ball bounces,” Zuckert said.

The league has also worked with Microsoft to digitally bring actual fans’ faces and voices of fans into broadcasts via their Microsoft Teams platform. These select fans, which will be determined by the home team each game, will be both seen on screens inside the arena and be heard on the telecasts.

Van Gundy said accounting for the fan variable is

about necessity as much as innovation.

“It’s not like (NBA Commissioner) Adam Silver sat down and said, ‘Hey, you know, let’s do some of these things. They’ll be better than having fans at the game.’ That’s not what happened,” Van Gundy said. “It was we can’t have fans at our game, how can we make the atmosphere the best it can be under the circumstances? And that’s what they’ve attempted to do.”

While some on-court interactions will remain muted even with enhanced audio, it certainly won’t drown everything out. There’s simply no way to account for the lack

of the sounds usually created by crowds in NBA arenas that seat anywhere from 18,000 to 20,000.

It could possibly include everything from the occasional curse word getting through to other on-court interactions that teams might want to keep quiet. And the benches could be a factor in providing off-court energy to fill the void created by the lack of fans.

All of it should provide some gifts for players and fans alike, Clippers coach Doc Rivers said.

“I don’t think we need scouts right now, because every time a coach makes a call, we’re gonna hear it. Every time we make one, they’re

gonna hear it,” he said. “I don’t think there will be a lot of secrets, that’s for sure. I think players will hear things they’ve never heard before. Officials, unfortunately, will hear things they’ve never heard before.”

Players know it will be different as well, though some don’t expect much of anything beyond good-natured banter—which even referees also join in from time to time.

“Honestly, everybody’s so worried about the trash talking,” Utah guard Donovan Mitchell said. “There’s a lot of just jokes being made on the floor. Obviously, come playoff time that kind of goes out the window.”

CONCACAF hexagonal becomes octagonal

NEW YORK (AP)—CONCACAF is changing its World Cup qualifying hexagonal to an octagonal in response to the coronavirus pandemic and delaying the start until next June.

The United States, Mexico, Costa Rica, Jamaica and Honduras receive byes directly to the octagonal, the Confederation of North, Central American and Caribbean Association Football announced Monday.

CONCACAF’s other 30 nations will compete for three additional spots in the final round. The octagonal will take place with four games per team in next June’s double FIFA international match window followed by two apiece in September, October and November 2021, and two each in January and March 2022.

By staying with a large total of teams in the final round, CONCACAF ensured two high-profile, lucrative qualifiers between the U.S. and Mexico. The format also provides margin for slip-ups, though there were not enough to prevent the U.S. from missing the 2018 World Cup in Russia when it lost to Mexico and Costa Rica at home and at Trinidad and Tobago on the final night.

“It’s good that we have clarity regarding the format and scheduling, which allows us to chart the course ahead,” U.S. coach Gregg Berhalter said in a statement. “We are looking forward to the challenge that this new World Cup qualifying format will present.”

The hexagonal was to have

started this September and be based on the June FIFA rankings, in which El Salvador was just ahead of Canada as the region’s sixth team.

Teams not in the hexagonal would have competed to face the fourth-place team in the hex for the right to represent CONCACAF in an intercontinental playoff.

Hugo Carrillo, president of the Salvadoran federation, sent a letter to CONCACAF president Victor Montagliani stating “total and complete disapproval and disagreement” of the decision, and asked for reconsideration to keeping the old format.

FIFA removed the September 2020 window for international matches because of the pandemic. If the October and November 2020 windows

take place, the U.S. could have exhibitions in Europe.

Under the new format, nations currently ranked 6-35 will be drawn into six groups of five in a seeded draw next month, with El Salvador, Canada, Curacao, Panama, Haiti, and Trinidad and Tobago seeded. Each group will compete in a single round robin of four matches per nation this October and November.

Group winners will advance to a home-and-home, total-goals second round next March, and the second-round winners will advance to the octagonal.

The Top 3 teams in the octagonal qualify for the 2022 World Cup in Qatar, and the fourth-place nation advances to an intercontinental playoff in June 2022.



3 games postponed amid Marlins' virus outbreak

M I A M I (AP)—The Marlins scrambled for roster replacements as they coped with a coronavirus outbreak. The New York Yankees had an unscheduled day off in Philadelphia while the home team underwent COVID-19 tests. The Baltimore Orioles were flying home from Miami without playing a game.

And Washington Nationals manager Dave Martinez summed up the situation in a season barely underway.

"I'm going to be honest with you: I'm scared," Martinez said.

More than a dozen Marlins players and staff members tested positive for COVID-19 in an outbreak that stranded the team in Philadelphia, disrupting Major League Baseball's schedule on the fifth day of the pandemic-delayed season.

Miami's home opener against Baltimore was postponed as was Tuesday's finale of the two-game series at Marlins Park. Also postponed was the Yankees' series opener Monday at Philadelphia, where New York would have been in the same clubhouse the Marlins used last weekend.

"Obviously, we don't want any player to get exposed. It's not a positive thing," baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred said on the MLB Network. "But I don't see it as a nightmare. We built the protocols to allow us to continue to play. That's why we have the expanded rosters, that's why we have the pool of additional players. And we think we can keep people safe and continue to play."

Nine Marlins players on the 30-man roster, two taxi squad players and two staff members tested positive, a person familiar with the situation told The Associated Press, speaking on condition of anonymity because the results hadn't been publicly disclosed.

The Yankees are staying in Philadelphia and have their own clubhouse staff with the team there, a person familiar with their plans said, also speaking on condition of anonymity because details were not disclosed. The Marlins postponed their flight home Sunday night after their series finale against the Phillies.

The Orioles planned to fly to Baltimore from Miami on Monday night. They are scheduled to host the Marlins in a two-game series starting Wednesday.

"If the testing results are acceptable, the Marlins will resume play in Baltimore on Wednesday against the Orioles," Manfred said.

Coming just days into the 60-game season, the Marlins'



The Phillie Phanatic looks on from the empty stands during the seventh inning of a baseball game against the Miami Marlins, Sunday, July 26, 2020, in Philadelphia. The Phillies' game against the New York Yankees on Monday was postponed after several members of the Miami Marlins tested positive for the coronavirus. AP

outbreak raised anew questions about Manfred's plan for navigating the pandemic.

"Now we REALLY get to see if MLB is going to put players health first," tweeted Los Angeles Dodgers pitcher David Price, who opted out of playing this season. "Remember when Manfred said players health was PARAMOUNT? Part of the reason I'm at home right now is because players health wasn't being put first. I can see that hasn't changed."

Rays 14, Braves 5

Tampa Bay's Hunter Renfroe swatted two home runs, including back-to-back shots with Joey Wendle in an eight-run fourth inning, as the Rays beat the Atlanta Braves in St. Petersburg, Fla.

The Rays sent up 11 batters in the deciding frame against Atlanta starter Mike Foltynewicz (0-1)—using four hits, three walks and a hit batter to extend their winning streak to three games. The eight runs were Tampa Bay's most in an inning since scoring nine in the first against Toronto on Oct. 4, 2015.

Rays starter Tyler Glasnow fired four strong innings, striking out nine, walking two and allowing just a solo homer. Diego Castillo (1-0) worked a perfect fifth, and Tampa Bay pitchers recorded 19 strikeouts, setting a team record for the most in a nine-inning game.

Cubs 8, Reds 7

Jon Lester tossed five hitless

had to hold on for a victory over Cincinnati after nearly blowing a seven-run lead.

Anthony Rizzo homered for the third time on the young season while Steven Souza Jr. and David Bote each had two RBIs for the Cubs, who have totaled 17 runs during back-to-back wins.

The Reds fell behind 8-1 before scoring all of their runs against a Cubs bullpen that allowed seven runs on six hits and eight walks in four innings. After plating two runs in the ninth, Cincinnati still had the bases loaded with one out. However, Jeremy Jeffress entered and struck out Phillip Ervin and got Joey Votto to line out to center field on a 3-2 count.

Brewers 6, Pirates 5 11 innings

Eric Sogard's RBI double in the 11th inning gave Milwaukee a win and spoiled Pittsburgh's home opener.

After the Brewers scored four runs in the ninth to force extra innings, Brock Holt started at second in the 11th and scored on Sogard's one-out shot down the line in left against Dovydas Neverauskas (0-1). David Phelps (1-0) pitched scoreless ball in the 10th and 11th innings for the Brewers.

Colin Moran homered twice for Pittsburgh, and Jarrod Dyson added a two-run single.

Mets 7, Red Sox 4

Pete Alonso hit a missile for his first home run of the season, Dominic Smith and

Michael Conforto also went deep, and visiting New York won at Boston.

Alonso, the home run champion a season ago with a record-setting 53 as a rookie, put a 1-for-12 start behind him with a two-run blast over the Green Monster as the Mets snapped a two-game skid. Smith's homer drove in three runs, and Conforto hit a two-run shot. Seth Lugo pitched 1 1/3 scoreless innings for his first save.

Mitch Moreland and Xander Bogaerts homered and each had two RBIs for the Red Sox, who lost their third straight at home.

Padres 6, Diamondbacks 2

Fernando Tatis Jr. capped a five-run fourth inning with a bases-loaded triple, leading host San Diego to a victory over Arizona. The Padres won three of the four games in the season-opening series.

In the first inning, Trent Grisham hit his first home run as a Padre. The Diamondbacks got both of their runs in the third inning, on a Starling Marte RBI double and an Eduardo Escobar RBI single.

San Diego starter Joey Lucchesi allowed two runs on five hits and a walk with two strikeouts in 3 2/3 innings.

Athletics 3, Angels 0

Chris Bassitt combined with five relievers on a nine-hitter and Mark Canha hit his first home run of the season as host Oakland took three of four in its season-opening series with

Los Angeles.

Bassitt pitched into and out of trouble in his four shutout innings, allowing five hits and one walk. He struck out five. Burch Smith (2-0), T.J. McFarland, Yusmeiro Petit, Jake Diekman and Soria took it from there, limiting the Angels to four hits over the final five innings to cap a series in which Oakland pitching allowed just 11 runs.

The Angels finished the game with the potential tying run at the plate, but Mike Trout struck out looking against Soria with runners at first and second. Trout went 0-for-4 with three strikeouts and a walk.

Royals 14, Tigers 6

Maikel Franco smacked two of Kansas City's six homers, including a three-run blast to cap a six-run fourth inning, as they spoiled Detroit's home opener.

Franco notched his first multi-homer game since July 26, 2018. Whit Merrifield had three hits, including a two-run homer, scored three runs and knocked in three more for Kansas City. Jorge Soler, Salvador Perez and Brett Phillips also homered in the victory.

Foster Griffin got the win in his major league debut, tossing 1 2/3 scoreless innings of relief before departing with a left forearm strain. JaCoby Jones hit a three-run homer for the Tigers while Victor Reyes added a solo blast and drove in two runs.

Astros 8, Mariners 5

Alex Bregman and Jose Al-

tuve both slugged their first home runs of the season while Brandon Bielak produced 3 1/3 innings of effective relief in his major league debut as host Houston beat Seattle to claim a four-game series.

Bielak (1-0), recalled earlier on Monday after ace right-hander Justin Verlander landed on the 10-day injured list with a forearm strain, retired the first eight batters he faced after entering in the fourth inning. He wound up allowing two runs (one earned) on four hits while striking out four without a walk.

Rookie first baseman Evan White staked the Mariners to a 3-0 lead with his first career home run, a two-run blast to left-center off James in the top of the third. The Astros rallied for four runs in the bottom of the inning against Mariners starter Kendall Graveman (0-1).

Blue Jays 4, Nationals 1

Teoscar Hernandez hit two home runs and Rowdy Tellez and Danny Jansen each had one as Toronto won at Washington.

Ryan Borucki (1-0) allowed one hit and a walk with two strikeouts in 1 1/3 relief innings to gain the victory. Anthony Bass pitched around a single in ninth to earn his first save of the season.

Washington starter Anibal Sanchez (0-1) allowed four runs on six hits in five innings. He struck out seven and walked one. Toronto starter Trent Thornton allowed one run, eight hits and two walks while striking out three in four innings.

Goodell explains plans for NFL season to fans



NEW YORK (AP)—NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell has sent a letter to fans outlining the league's plans to play during the coronavirus pandemic.

As veterans begin reporting to training camps this week, Goodell noted Monday how COVID-19 has "turned the world upside down."

"COVID-19 will continue to present a major challenge to nearly every area of American life. Football is no exception," Goodell wrote.

"Every step of the way, our focus has been on the safety of players, coaches, personnel, fans and our communities. Our planning has followed the lead of medical experts and public health officials, including the CDC, the White House Task Force, governors and state health officials. As we have developed our 2020 playbook for the return of football, safety continues to be our first priority; that commitment will remain paramount as players return to the field."

The league and the players' union reached agreement on a plan last Friday, after all preseason games were canceled. Team facilities were shut down by Goodell in late March and only began reopening on a cautious basis this summer.

"The NFL in 2020 will not



In this Dec. 29, 2019 file photo, Kansas City Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes (15) celebrates with fans after beating the Los Angeles Chargers in an NFL football game in Kansas City, Mo.

look like other years," Goodell added. "Players and coaches will be tested for the virus regularly, including every day for a while. Preseason games have been canceled. Everyone in the team environment must follow rigorous health and safety protocols to keep themselves and each other safe. When there is a positive test, strict regulations will be enforced to isolate and care for that individual and to contain the virus before it spreads.

"Even the sideline will look different. And, state and local health guidelines will help determine whether fans will attend the games. These adjustments are necessary to reduce the risk for everyone involved."

Goodell stressed the need for adaptability on all levels, citing how a virtual draft was held in April. All 32 teams held remote offseason training sessions, too.

The NFL has opted not to create a bubble environment,

something the NHL, NBA, WNBA and MLS have done. With Major League Baseball experiencing difficulties on its first weekend of play with a plan similar to the NFL's, there is added anxiety about what Goodell's league has planned.

"This week training camps across the country are starting and before we know it, the NFL season will be here," he wrote. "This is always the most optimistic time of year

for our fans, and for all 32 teams. In a year that has been extraordinarily difficult for our country and the world, we hope the energy of this moment will provide some much-needed optimism.

Jets GM on trading Adams

Joe Douglas fully envisioned Jamal Adams being a big piece of what he wants to build for the New York Jets.

The general manager raved about the All-Pro safety's abilities as a playmaker and leader when he took over the franchise just over a year ago. Douglas also insisted he'd love Adams to remain "a Jet for life."

Well, things changed. In a major way.

Douglas dealt Adams and a 2022 fourth-round draft pick to Seattle on Saturday for first-rounders in 2021 and '22, a third-rounder in 2021 and safety Bradley McDougald. It was a stunning end to Adams' short but productive Jets tenure.

"We're excited about the opportunity that this gives us," Douglas said during a conference call Monday. "As I've repeatedly said, my responsibility is to always take the call and assess value to the Jets. And ultimately, this was a deal that made sense for us to make."

The trade capped a conten-

tious several months between the team and the 24-year-old Adams, who wanted a contract extension and was highly critical of ownership, coach Adam Gase and Douglas in the days leading up to the deal. In an interview with the Daily News published last Friday, Adams said he was disappointed the Jets never made him an offer and felt misled by Douglas and the organization.

"I just want to make it clear that I never promised an offer to Jamal or his agent," Douglas said while speaking to reporters for the first time since the trade. "Nor was I ever dishonest or ambiguous in my communications with their camp."

The Jets had control over Adams' contract through 2021 and could have also potentially placed the franchise tag on him in 2022, so they were in no rush to extend the player taken No. 6 overall in the 2017 draft. Adams made the Pro Bowl the past two seasons and was an All-Pro selection last year, clearly establishing himself as one of the top defensive players in the league.

Adams had outplayed his rookie deal, and wanted to get paid. The Jets valued his abilities, but wanted to wait.

Douglas referred to the financial uncertainty caused by the coronavirus pandemic. He also pointed out that only three defensive players have received extensions after their third season under the current collective bargaining agreement: J.J. Watt, Luke Kuechly and Myles Garrett.

"Not knowing what the full economic picture was going to look like," Douglas said, "we just weren't in position to do anything immediately when it came to a contract extension."

So, when Seattle general manager John Schneider called Douglas a few weeks ago to begin trade talks, the Jets GM listened and other teams expressed interest in Adams. But he knew what he needed to do once the Seahawks became "aggressive" with their offers.



In this 2015 file photo, Red Sox pitcher Nate Camacho prepares to throw to the plate during their Senior League game against the Fielders in the Saipan Little League Baseball at the Francisco M. "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

FLASHBACK

From Page 20

6-2, 6-1.

Meanwhile, this year's POJC has been rescheduled from August to Oct. 14 to 23 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Qualifiers for the annual tournament have yet to be

determined, as the regional competitions (for North, East, and West teams) have been reset because of the crisis. The North Pacific Regional Championships where the CNMI participates was supposed to take place in Guam last month, but has been moved to September (5 to 9).



Depth even
more critical
in NBA
title chase

PAGE 17

Saipan Tribune Sports

3 games
postponed
amid Marlins'
virus outbreak

PAGE 18



20 WEDNESDAY, JULY 29, 2020

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Revival of U25 baseball league eyed



SAIPAN TRIBUNE
In this 2017 file photo, the Falcons' Tindin Deleon Guerrero waits for the pitch during the top of the sixth inning of their game against the Blue Jays in the Senior League division of the Saipan Little League Baseball last Saturday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Players ineligible for the Saipan Little League Baseball program will still have an opportunity to see action in the diamond with Saipan Baseball League planning to bring back its U25 tournament, possibly next year.

The SLLB 2020 season was shelved due to the COVID-19 pandemic, leaving players aging out (those turning 17 next year) of the Senior League division without a competition in the last two years. With this unfortunate event, Braves coach George Camacho, in an earlier report, suggested for a Big League return (the program was discontinued after the 2016 World Series), even in a local level, to cater to players in the 17 to 18 age group.



League tournament can't be sanctioned by their group or the Little League International, citing rules and regulations under their respective charters. Borja added that other sports group or businesses and even the mayor of the island can create a league for the affected players.

"Even schools can form a league for players in the 17 to 18 age group, but they can't use the Little League name since the Big League program was scrapped at the end of the 2016 season," Borja said.

"It's just unfortunate that our Senior League players did not get the opportunity to play

in the past two seasons because of Super Typhoon Yutu and now this pandemic," the SLLB head added.

Aging out Senior League players' chances to play one more time under the Little League program were doomed after Little League International announced that no waiver will be issued to reconsider the age cut-off even though the 2020 season was canceled due to the pandemic.

With the Little League program out of the picture, the next option for the affected players is SBL's adult league, which could be so tough for

See REVIVAL on Page 19



SAIPAN TRIBUNE
In this 2014 file photo, the Jets pitcher attempts to pick up a grounder, while a Braves runner heads to first base during their Big League game.

Flashback: All-NMI duel in Fiji

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

One year ago, on this day, Ji Min Woo showed no love

lost to fellow CNMI player Sean Lee after winning their playoff game in the boys U16 singles division in the



Pacific Oceania Junior Championships in Fiji. Woo took the opening set, 6-4, and was given the outright victory in the second, as Lee, who was nursing a fever could not continue the match. With the win, Woo marched into the semifinal round where he faced Tahiti's Brandon Fong.

A 6-2, 6-3 triumph against the Tahiti bet brought Woo to the title game versus Vanuatu's Clement Mainguy. Unfortunately, Woo missed the championship in the singles division after Mainguy swept the finale.

Woo also made it to the title match in the doubles play after teaming up with Lee. The CNMI duo outclassed Fong and Vaitea Molinier in the semis, 6-4, 3-6, 10-5, to reach the finals, which Solomon Islands' Junior Miki and Mainguy eventually won,

See FLASHBACK on
Page 19



SAIPAN TRIBUNE
Ji Min Woo, seen here competing in a local tournament, played in the boys U16 singles finals in last year's Pacific Oceania Junior Championships in Fiji..